

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 24, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 899

Introduced by Assembly Member Weber

February 22, 2013

An act to amend Section 60811 of, and to add *and repeal* Section 60811.4 ~~to~~ of, the Education Code, relating to academic content standards.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 899, as amended, Weber. Academic content standards: English language development standards.

(1) Existing law requires each school district that has one or more pupils who are English learners and, to the extent required by federal law, each county office of education and each charter school, to assess the English language development of each of those pupils upon initial enrollment in order to determine the level of proficiency of those pupils, and thereafter to assess each of those pupils annually until the pupil is redesignated as English proficient.

Existing law requires the State Board of Education to approve standards for English language development for pupils whose primary language is a language other than English. Existing law further requires that these standards be comparable in rigor and specificity to the statewide academically rigorous content standards for English language arts.

This bill would instead require that the standards for English language development for pupils whose primary language is a language other than English be comparable in rigor and specificity to the academic content standards to which they are aligned, including specified standards for English language arts and mathematics and specified science content standards.

(2) Existing law, which is to be repealed on July 1, 2013, requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the state board, to update, revise, and align the English language development standards adopted pursuant to existing law to the state board-approved academic content standards for English language arts, as provided.

This bill would require the Superintendent, on or before January 1, 2015, to recommend modifications to the English language development standards to align with the state board-approved academic content standards for mathematics, and would also require the Superintendent to recommend modifications to the English language development standards to align with the state board-approved science content standards, for adoption to the state board. *The bill would require the Superintendent, in consultation with the state board, to convene a group of experts in English language instruction, curriculum, and assessment, as provided, to meet those requirements.* The bill would require the Superintendent to hold a minimum of 2 public meetings in order for the public to provide input regarding any modifications to the English language development standards.

The bill would require the state board, on or before August 1, 2015, to adopt or reject the Superintendent's recommendations for the alignment of the English language development standards with the state board-approved academic content standards for mathematics and science, as specified.

This bill would require that funding be provided in the annual Budget Act or another statute before these provisions could be implemented. The bill would make its provisions inoperative on July 1, 2016.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 60811 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:

1 60811. The state board shall approve standards for English
2 language development for pupils whose primary language is a
3 language other than English. The standards shall be comparable
4 in rigor and specificity to the academic content standards to which
5 they are aligned, including the standards for English language arts
6 and mathematics adopted pursuant to Section 60605.8 and the
7 science content standards adopted pursuant to Section 60605.85.

8 SEC. 2. Section 60811.4 is added to the Education Code, to
9 read:

10 60811.4. (a) On or before January 1, 2015, the Superintendent
11 shall recommend to the state board modifications to the English
12 language development standards, adopted pursuant to Section
13 60811, to align with the academic content standards for
14 mathematics adopted by the state board pursuant to Section
15 60605.8. If the state board modifies the English language
16 development standards to align with the academic content standards
17 for mathematics, it shall explain, in writing, to the Governor and
18 the Legislature the reasons for the modification. The
19 Superintendent's recommendations and the state board's actions
20 shall assist schools in the implementation and application of
21 English language development standards in the mathematics subject
22 area.

23 (b) On or before January 1, 2015, the Superintendent shall
24 recommend to the state board modifications to the English language
25 development standards, adopted pursuant to Section 60811, to
26 align with the science content standards adopted by the state board
27 pursuant to Section 60605.85. If the state board modifies the
28 English language development standards to align with the science
29 content standards, it shall explain, in writing, to the Governor and
30 the Legislature the reasons for the modification. The
31 Superintendent's recommendations and the state board's actions
32 shall assist schools in the implementation and application of
33 English language development standards in the science subject
34 area.

35 (c) *In meeting the requirements of subdivisions (a) and (b), the*
36 *Superintendent, in consultation with the state board, shall convene*
37 *a group of experts in English language instruction, curriculum,*
38 *and assessment, including individuals who have a minimum of*
39 *three years of demonstrated experience instructing English learners*
40 *in the classroom at the elementary or secondary level. The*

1 *Superintendent shall ensure that the group includes, but is not*
2 *necessarily limited to, members who are schoolsite principals,*
3 *school district or county office of education administrators*
4 *overseeing programs and support for English learners, personnel*
5 *of teacher training schools at institutions of higher education, and*
6 *curriculum and instructional specialists with English learner*
7 *experience. For the purpose of this subdivision, the Superintendent*
8 *may use the group of experts convened pursuant to subdivision*
9 *(b) of former Section 60811.3, as it read on June 30, 2013, with*
10 *modifications to account for mathematics and science content*
11 *experience.*

12 ~~(e) In carrying out~~

13 *(d) Prior to completing the requirements of subdivisions (a) and*
14 *(b), the Superintendent shall hold a minimum of two public*
15 *meetings pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article*
16 *9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of*
17 *Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code) in order for the*
18 *public to provide input regarding any modifications recommended*
19 *pursuant to this section.*

20 ~~(d)~~

21 *(e) On or before August 1, 2015, the state board shall do both*
22 *of the following:*

23 *(1) Adopt or reject the Superintendent's recommendations for*
24 *the alignment of the English language development standards*
25 *adopted pursuant to Section 60811 with the state board-approved*
26 *academic content standards for mathematics adopted pursuant to*
27 *Section 60605.8.*

28 *(2) Adopt or reject the Superintendent's recommendations for*
29 *the alignment of the English language development standards*
30 *adopted pursuant to Section 60811 with the state board-approved*
31 *academic content standards for science adopted pursuant to Section*
32 *60605.85.*

33 *(f) This section shall not be implemented unless funds are*
34 *appropriated by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act or*
35 *another statute for its purposes.*

36 *(g) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2016, and*
37 *as of January 1, 2017, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,*
38 *that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2017, deletes or*
39 *extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.*

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